

CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MAY 2004 AGENDA

SUBJECT

Environmental Effect of Proposed Formation of Wiseburn Unified School District from Wiseburn Elementary School District and a Portion of Centinela Valley Union High School District in Los Angeles County

t	Action
	Information
	Public Hearing

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Negative Declaration which indicates no environmental effect.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The State Board of Education has not heard this issue previously. The Board received this item as an information memorandum in April 2004.

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

Six years ago, the California Resources Agency adopted new guidelines that exempted school district organizations from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process. Those guidelines were invalidated in a recent appellate court ruling (Communities for a Better Environment v. California Resources Agency, Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, Case No. C038844) and the original guidelines, which included school district organizations as projects under CEQA, were reinstated.

The State Board of Education is the lead agency for all aspects of school district unifications, including the reinstated CEQA review process. Pursuant to past practice, California Department of Education (CDE) staff conducted an initial study (Attachment 2) and determined that there would be no significant adverse effect on the environment as a result of forming the Wiseburn Unified School District. A copy of the Negative Declaration and initial study has been filed with the State Clearinghouse for state agency review. Also, a legal notice of the public hearing has been published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Any comments received by CDE will be forwarded to the Board or presented verbally at the public hearing.

FISCAL ANALYSIS (AS APPROPRIATE)

There is no fiscal effect to adopting the Proposed Negative Declaration.

ATTACHMENT

Attachment 1: Proposed Negative Declaration (1 Page)
Attachment 2: Environmental Checklist Form (8 Pages)

PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

- Name, if any, and a brief description of project: <u>Formation of Wiseburn Unified</u> <u>School District</u>, which is a unification of the existing Wiseburn Elementary School District and corresponding geographical portion of Centinela Valley Union High School District.
- 2. Location: Los Angeles County
- 3. Entity or person undertaking project: California State Board of Education

The California State Board of Education, having reviewed the Initial Study of this proposed project, and having reviewed the written comments received prior to the public meeting of the State Board of Education, including the recommendation of the California Department of Education's staff, does hereby find and declare that the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment. A brief statement of the reasons supporting the State Board of Education findings is as follows: The unification itself will not involve or cause physical changes to the existing environment. Merely changing the political boundaries governance structure, and/or the name of a school district will not have an environmental impact.

The California State Board of Education hereby finds that the Negative Declaration reflects its independent judgment.

A copy of the Initial Study may be obtained at the California Department of Education, 1430 N Street, Suite 3800, Sacramento, CA 95814. Telephone: (916) 322-1468.

The location and custodian of the documents and any other material which constitute the record of proceedings upon which the California State Board of Education based its decision to adopt this Negative Declaration are as follows:

California Department of Education 1430 N Street, Suite 3800 Sacramento, CA 95814 Telephone: (916) 322-1468

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

1. Project title: Formation of Wiseburn Unified School District
2. Lead agency name and address:
California State Board of Education
1430 N Street, Suite 5111, Sacramento, CA 95814
3. Contact person and phone number: <u>Larry Shirey</u> , 916 322-1468
4. Project location:
Wiseburn School District, serving Cities of El Segundo and Hawthorne, parts of unincorporated Los Angeles County
5. Project sponsor's name and address:
Tony Nakamura, Chief petitioner John Peterson, Chief petitioner Lydia Rodriquez, Chief Petitioner
5524 W. 124 th St., Hawthorne, 90250 5315 W. 124 th Pl., Del Aire, 90250 5164 W. 131 st St., Hawthorne, 90250
6. General plan designation: N/A 7. Zoning: N/A
8. Description of project: (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheets if necessary.)
Change of local governmental structure from elementary/high school districts to unified school district
9. Surrounding land uses and setting: (Briefly describe the project's surroundings)
Cities of El Segundo, Inglewood, Hawthorne, Lawndale, Torrance, and unincorporated Los Angeles County; five current
school districts – Centinela Valley Union High School District, Hawthorne Elementary School District, Lawndale
Elementary School District, Lennox Elementary School District, Wiseburn Elementary School District
10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreements.)
None

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked be one impact that is a "Potentially signi	<u> </u>						
☐ Land Use and Planning	☐ Transportation/Circulation	☐ Public services					
Population and Housing	☐ Biological Resources	Utilities and Service					
Geological Problems	☐ Energy and Mineral Resources	Aesthetics					
Water	Hazards	Cultural Resources					
☐ Air Quality	Noise	Recreation					
	☐ Mandatory Findings of						
DETERMINATION: (To be completed by	by the Lead Agency)						
On the basis of this initial evaluation:							
☐ I find that the proposed project CO NEGATIVE DECLA-RATION w	•	on the environment, and a					
not be a significant effect in this c	project could have a significant effect ase because the mitigation measures NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be	described on an attached sheet					
☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.							
effect 1) has been adequately anal and 2) has been addressed by miti sheets, if the effect is a "potential"	AY have a significant effect(s) on the yzed in an earlier document pursuant gation measures based on the earlier y significant impact" or "potentially sEPORT is required, but it must analy	to applicable legal standards, analysis as described on attached significant unless mitigated." An					
NOT be a significant effect in this adequately in an earlier EIR pursu	project could have a significant effect case because all potentially significate ant to applicable standards, and (b) hading revisions or mitigation measures	ant effects (a) have been analyzed ave been avoided or mitigated					
Signature	Date: 10/1/03						
Printed name: Larry Shirey	For: California S	tate Board of Education					

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect is significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) "Negative Declaration: Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses," may be cross-referenced).
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 1 5063(c)(3)(D). Earlier analyses are discussed in Section XVII at the end of the checklist.
- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated. See the sample question below. A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 7) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different ones.

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Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):		Significant Unlo Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	
Would the proposal result in potential impacts involving:	Impact		Impact	No Impa
a) Landslides or mudslides? (1, 6)				\boxtimes
(Attached source list explains that 1 is the general plan, and 6 is a USC probably not need further explanation.)	GS topo m	nap. This an	swer wo	uld

Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated

EN	IVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:	Potentially Significant	Less than Significant	No Impa
I. 1	LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the proposal:	Impact	Impact	то тра
a)	Conflict with general plan designation or zoning? (*)			\boxtimes
b)	Conflict with applicable environmental plans or policies adopted by agencies with jurisdiction over the project? (*)			\boxtimes
c)	Be incompatible with existing land use in the vicinity? (*)			\boxtimes
d)	Affect agricultural resources or operations (e.g., impacts to soils or farmlands, or impacts from incompatible land uses)? (*)			\boxtimes
e)	Disrupt or divide the physical arrangement of an established community (including a low-income or minority community)? (*)			
II.	POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the proposal:			
a)	Cumulatively exceed regional or local population projections? (*)			\boxtimes
b)	Induce substantial growth in an area either directly or indirectly (e.g projects in an undeveloped area of major infrastructure)? (*)	·.,		\boxtimes
c)	Displace existing housing, especially affordable housing? (*)			\boxtimes
III	. GEOLOGIC PROBLEMS. Would the proposal result in or expost to potential impacts involving:	e people		
a)	Fault rupture? (*)			\boxtimes
b)	Seismic ground shaking? (*)			\boxtimes
c)	Seismic ground failure, including liquefaction? (*)			\boxtimes
d)	Seiche, tsunami, or volcanic hazard? (*)			\boxtimes
e)	Landslides or mudflows? (*)			\boxtimes
f)	Erosion, changes in topography or unstable soil conditions from excavation, grading, or fill? (*)			\boxtimes
g)	Subsidence of land? (*)			\boxtimes
h)	Expansive soils? (*)			\boxtimes
i)	Unique geologic or physical features? (*)			\boxtimes
IV	. WATER. Would the proposal result in:			
a)	Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or surface runoff? (*) 🗆		\boxtimes
b)	Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding? (*)			\boxtimes
c)	Discharge into surface waters or other alteration of surface water qu	alitv		

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	(e.g., temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity? (*)			\boxtimes
d)	Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body? (*)			\boxtimes
e)	Changes in currents or the course/direction of water movements? (*)			\boxtimes
f)	Change in the quantity of ground waters, either through direct addition withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavation or through substantial loss of groundwater recharge capability? (*)			\boxtimes
g)	Altered direction or rate of flow of groundwater? (*)			
h)	Impacts to groundwater quality? (*)			
i)	Substantial reduction in the amount of groundwater otherwise available for public water supplies? (*)	le		\boxtimes
V.	AIR QUALITY. Would the proposal:			
a)	Violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air qualify violation? (*)	ed		\boxtimes
b)	Expose sensitive receptors to pollutants? (*)			\boxtimes
c)	Alter air movement, moisture, or temperature, or cause any change in climate? (*)			\boxtimes
d)	Create objectionable odors? (*)			\boxtimes
VI	. TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION. Would the proposal result	in:		
a)	Increased vehicle trips or traffic congestion? (*)			\boxtimes
b)	Hazards to safety from design features (e.g., sharp curves or dangerou intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? (*)	ıs		\boxtimes
c)	Inadequate emergency access or access to nearby uses? (*)			\boxtimes
d)	Insufficient parking capacity onsite or offsite? (*)			\boxtimes
e)	Hazards or barriers for pedestrians or bicyclists? (*)			\boxtimes
f)	Conflicts with adopted policies supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)? (*)			
g) VI	Rail, waterborne or air traffic impacts? (*) I. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the proposal result in impact	ts to:		
a)	Endangered, threatened or rare species or their habitats (including but not limited to plants, fish, insects, animals, and birds? (*)			\boxtimes
b)	Locally designated species (e.g., heritage trees)? (*)			
c)	Locally designated natural communities (e.g., oak forest, coastal habitat, etc.)? (*)			\boxtimes
d)	Wetland habitat (e.g., marsh, riparian, and vernal pool)? (*)		П	\boxtimes

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e)	Wildlife dispersal or migration corridors? (*)			\boxtimes
VI	II. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the proposal:			
a)	Conflict with adopted energy conservation plans? (*)			\boxtimes
b)	Use nonrenewable resources in a wasteful and inefficient manner? (*)			\boxtimes
c)	Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that wou be of future value to the region and the residents of the State? (*)	ld		\boxtimes
IX	. HAZARDS. Would the proposal involve:			
a)	A risk of accidental explosion or release of hazardous substances (included but not limited to, oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation)? (*)	uding,		\boxtimes
b)	Possible interference with an emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? (*)			\boxtimes
c)	The creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard? (*)			\boxtimes
d)	Exposure of people to existing sources of potential health hazards? (*)) 🗆		\boxtimes
e)	Increased fire hazard in areas with flammable brush, grass, or trees? (*)□		\boxtimes
X.	NOISE. Would the proposal result in:			
a)	Increases in existing noise levels? (*)			\boxtimes
b)	Exposure of people to severe noise levels? (*)			
XI	. PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the proposal have an effect upon, or re a need for new or altered government services in any of the following			
a)	Fire protection? (*)			\boxtimes
b)	Police protection? (*)			\boxtimes
c)	Schools? (*)			\boxtimes
d)	Maintenance of public facilities, including roads? (*)			\boxtimes
e)	Other government services? (*)			\boxtimes
XI	I. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the proposal result for new systems or supplies, or substantial alterations to the following			
a)	Power or natural gas? (*)			\boxtimes
b)	Communications systems? (*)			\boxtimes
c)	Local or regional water treatment or distribution facilities? (*)			\boxtimes
d)	Sewer or septic tanks? (*)			\boxtimes
e)	Storm water drainage? (*)			\boxtimes

Environmental Effect of Proposed Formation of Wiseburn... Attachment 2 Page 7 of 8 f) Solid waste disposal? (*) \boxtimes g) Local or regional water supplies? (*) \boxtimes **XIII. AESTHETICS.** Would the proposal: a) Affect a scenic vista or scenic highway? (*) \boxtimes b) Have a demonstrable negative aesthetic effect? (*) П П \boxtimes c) Create light or glare? (*) \Box \Box П X **XIV. CULTURAL RESOURCES.** Would the proposal: a) Disturb paleontological resources? (*) \boxtimes b) Disturb archaeological resources? (*) \Box \boxtimes c) Have the potential to cause a physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values? (*) П \boxtimes d) Restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area? (*) \boxtimes **XV. RECREATION.** Would the proposal: a) Increase the demand for neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities? (*) \boxtimes П П b) Affect existing recreational opportunities? (*) П \Box П \boxtimes XVI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE. a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? \Box X \Box П b) Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals? \boxtimes c) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects) П П \boxtimes

d) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human

 \Box

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 \boxtimes

XVII. EARLIER ANALYSES.

beings, either directly or indirectly?

Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, one or more effects have been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case a discussion should identify the following on attached sheets:

- a) Earlier analyses used. Identify earlier analyses and state where they are available for review.
- b) **Impacts adequately addressed.** Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
- c) **Mitigation measures.** For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which are incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- * Project is a governance change for a local education agency and will have no negative environmental effect

Authority: Public Resources Code Sections 21083 and 21087.

Reference: Public Resources Code Sections21080(c), 21080.1, 21083, 21083.3, 21093, 21094, 21151; Sundstrum v. County of Mendocino, 202 Cal.App.3d 296 (1988); Leonoff v. Monterey Board of Supervisors, 222 Cal.App.3d 1337 (1990).